

**REMARKS**

The herein amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 4, 2004, in which claims 1-3 were allowed and claims 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osborne, U.S. Pat. No. 5,605,060, in view of Doi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,748,078. By this amendment, applicant has amended claim 4, the only remaining, non-allowable independent claim in the application, to overcome the prior art rejection. It is submitted that all claims in the application are now allowable.

Claim 4, as now amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the unitary, individual and independent nature of the looped segments. Specifically, the claim states that the first row of the plurality of aligned looped segments are unitary segments and that each looped segment is a separate and independent segment, each individually formed from and emanating from an outer surface of the clothing. Further, the claim now states that the plurality of looped segments form a braid along the outer surface.

The rejection of independent claim 4 based on Osborne in view of Doi is no longer applicable. Doi, and specifically FIG. 4 in that prior art, has been cited in an attempt to meet the language of originally submitted claim 4. However, Doi, in FIG. 4, shows a type of stitching used in a knitted lace fabric. Fundamentally, it fails to show a braid, which language is now specifically included in newly submitted claim 4. Moreover, the stitching of Doi merely comprises two pieces of yarn, 11 and 12, which run through each other to form the stitching pattern. The newly added language to claim 4 emphasizes the unitary, separate, and independent nature of each of the plurality of looped segments in the braid of the subject invention, each segment being individually formed from and emanating from an outer surface of the clothing. It is submitted that this unique and distinct braid configuration, as now claimed, is not shown or

contemplated by the stitching pattern of Doi and thus rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, applying Osborne in view of Doi is no longer valid.

The remaining originally rejected claims, claims 5-10, are dependent on claim 4 and are therefore allowable along with that claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the examiner's allowance of claims 1-3, directed to the method. Now, with the amendment of claim 4, all claims to the application are allowable and the application itself is in condition for allowance.

If the examiner, upon review of the herein amendment, believes that additional changes may be appropriate to advance the prosecution of this application, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**

I certify that the Amendment After First Office Action was sent to Gary L. Welch, Examiner, Art Unit 3765, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, via Fax 703-872-9306 on September 21, 2004.



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